

GOVERNOR HONORS VETS



At the eleventh hour, on the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, Governor Jon S. Corzine (center) lowered the remains of 2,000 retired American flags into the ground during the Veterans Day ceremony at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery chapel in Arneytown. Maj. Gen.

Glenn K. Rieth (left), The Adjutant General of New Jersey and retired Col. Stephen G. Abel (right), Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, assisted the Governor during the ceremony. Veterans Day coverage begins on page 6. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

DCVA's Message

Dear Veteran,

We all start a new year with expectations that next twelve months will be better. Those expectations take the form as goals we hope to achieve.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) started 2006 with an ambitious list of goals and high expectations to serve the veterans community.

I am happy to report that the DMAVA team did very well achieving those goals with help from Governor Jon S. Corzine, the state legislature and the Veteran Service Organizations.



The Executive and Legislative branches showed their support for you with keeping this Department as one of the few to be fully funded for this current budget. That support to 'Those Who Served' included an additional \$2-million dollars to expand the transitional housing program for homeless veterans.

The past year saw many improvements of facilities as the new wing at Vineland Veterans Memorial Home opened which included the first assisted living unit to be built in any state veterans' home in the U.S.

The maintenance complex at the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Cemetery was completed and the expansion of the busiest state veterans' cemetery in the country moves forward as additional federal funding has been secured to add to the existing crypt field.

For 2007 we will continue to search for the under-served veterans throughout the state. We will expand our outreach efforts in the community and will explore new ways to fulfill the Governor's vision of giving our homeless veterans a hand up. We will work with the federal Veterans Administration to provide funding to ensure several smaller projects at our facilities get the attention they deserve.

And finally it looks like 2007 will be the year that fund raising begins in earnest to get the World War II Memorial in Trenton built.

These are our expectations and I look forward to working with you to make them a reality.

Best Wishes,



Veteran
Journal

Jon S. Corzine
Governor

Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth
The Adjutant General

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel
Deputy Commissioner for
Veterans Affairs

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Staff Writer/Photographer

The **New Jersey Veteran Journal** is an official publication of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and is intended to serve New Jersey's veterans, their families, friends and concerned individuals and groups. All correspondence should be sent to the editor at: NJDMAVA, PAO-V, PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340.

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Message from the Governor

Dear Veteran,

This year, for the first time as Governor, I took part in a Veterans' Day ceremony at Doyle Cemetery. Afterwards, I had a chance to take a tour and I can tell you first hand, it truly is "a place of honor for those who served." I am pleased to report that the cemetery's much needed Administrative and Maintenance Complex will be completed before the first of the year, helping the facility's dedicated staff more efficiently maintain this noble place of honor.

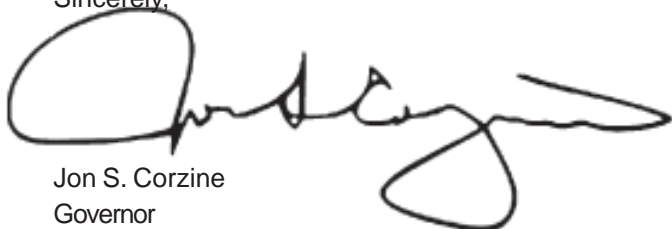
Veterans' Day affords us the opportunity to reflect on the service and sacrifice of all veterans, especially those still among us. Of New Jersey's 600,000 veterans, 180,000 served in World War II, and many of these distinguished residents are now well into their 80's. These facts make it imperative that we complete the New Jersey World War II Memorial without delay. To that end, I signed an Executive Order on December 8 expanding the membership of the New Jersey World War II Commission.

The new members of the commission are prominent New Jersey citizens who will be able to greatly assist the veterans on the commission in their efforts to raise the remaining funds needed to begin construction. As you may know, a site directly across the street from the Statehouse had been selected for the memorial and both design and construction documents have been completed. It's time to finish the job and build a memorial to these veterans who answered when their nation called.

Additionally, my administration recently opened a new wing at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home, adding 153 new beds to the facility. Major General Glenn K. Rieth and Deputy Commissioner Steve Abel were on hand at the dedication, and pictures from the event are included in this issue.

Let me thank each and every New Jersey veteran for their service to our state and nation. I wish all of you and your families a joyous holiday season and only the best in the coming year.

Sincerely,



Jon S. Corzine
Governor



Governor Jon S. Corzine signs Executive Order Number 45 expanding the number of public members on the World War II Memorial Commission in an effort designed to expedite construction of the memorial on Dec. 8. "As stated in this Executive Order, World War II veterans endured great risks, hardships, and deprivations while defending our country," said Governor Corzine. "As we mark the 65th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, we must act now to complete the World War II Memorial so that veterans of that conflict may see this dream realized in their lifetime." The order increases the number of members from 17 to 27 and adds the Secretary of State to the list of ex-officio nonvoting commission members. The additional public members will assist in expediting the fundraising, planning, and construction process.

Commander's Call: challenges and possibilities

Photos and story by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA

The leaders of veterans' service organization from across New Jersey gathered together on Oct. 28 to learn of the latest information for their members and to hear the about the newest ideas that the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) has to support the nearly 600,000 veterans in state.

The meeting began with a warning that unlike the current state budget where DMAVA was one of two departments to be fully funded, the next budget year starting in July 2007 could be different.

"Everything going forward is going to be a challenge," said Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, the Adjutant General of New Jersey.

The department is looking at two approaches to use the \$2 million dollars added in this year's budget to address the homeless veterans' issue. The original idea was to expand the existing Veterans Haven facility located on the grounds of Ancora State Hospital in Winslow Township, adding 34-beds to the transitional housing program.

With the department being involved with the Fort Monmouth Economic Revitalization Authority, eyes have turned to the base as a possible second Vets Haven site. The leadership is exploring the idea of using the state money with Federal funds to convert the current Patterson Army Hospital into a 200-bed transitional housing facility and a permanent home for the Veterans Administration clinic. There should be decision in the spring if the Fort Monmouth proposal is feasible.

There are an estimated 8,000 homeless vets in the Garden State, many who continue to suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

"PTSD is for real," noted Rieth as he spoke about increased efforts to catch the problems early and the department's counseling hotline (1-866-838-7654).

"That hotline serves any veteran from any war, with thirty percent of the phone calls coming from families," added retired Col. Stephen G. Abel, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs.

There has been a distinct shift in the age and health of veterans entering the state's three memorial homes, with many more being admitted in poor health and most being older. Abel noted that the length of a residents stay in a memorial home has dropped steadily to where the average



Carol Paprock, a representative of Samaritan Hospice, spoke about the benefits of hospice services for terminally ill patients.

is now three years.

Those demographic changes along with rising costs have lead to widening of the gap between actual costs of care for a veteran and the daily care rate charged. The actual cost is \$231 dollars per day while Veterans Memorial Homes only charge \$159 dollars, a rate that has not changed in nearly five years.

"The gap has gotten too wide and we can not make up the difference," said Abel as he announced the rate will go up \$25 as of January 1, 2007 to \$184 dollars per day. When compared to private nursing homes, the state facilities are very cost competitive added Abel, "Even at the full rate it would still be a bargain."

When the topic of legislative issues came up Abel gave the veterans leaders some ideas to focus on in 2007.

In the Garden State the 'Vet-is-a-Vet' legislation in its simplest form of allowing any veteran in the eyes of the Federal rules to be awarded Veterans Preference in the state is still a priority. There is a need for the state legislature to look at forming a state committee dedicated to the issues of women veterans.

Abel stressed that the lack of increased funding for many Federal Veterans Administration programs could affect the future expansion of the state facilities for veterans. The VA Home Constructions Fund has been stuck at \$85 million dollars and there is need for additional funding in the VA's State Cemetery Grant Program.

"It is an uneven playing field for states and state cemeteries," explained Abel when he talked about how there is currently no Federal Plot Interment Allowance for spouses. Bringing more Federal dollars back to New Jersey is goal for the department, not only for facilities and programs, but more importantly for individual veterans in the form of VA entitlements.

The outreach efforts of the state Veteran Services Officers to assist veterans in applying for VA benefits or re-visiting an existing claim has resulted in one out of every four VA applications being handled by DMAVA.

Veterans are more successful in getting VA entitlements approved, over 90 percent, when assisted by DMAVA according to David Walther, State Supervisor of the Veteran Services Officers. He made the analogy that not using a state VSO when applying to the VA is like going to court without an attorney.

Veterans Homes state-of-the-art

By Brig. Gen. Frank R. Carlini, Director, NJDMAVA/VHCSNew Jersey

With the dedication of the new wing at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home, New Jersey now has three state-of-the-art Veterans Homes serving nearly 900 veteran residents.

Paramus, our northern most home, was completed in 1986 and has the largest resident population of all our Homes. Menlo Park, in the middle of the state, is our second newest home completed in 1999. The facility is centered around a "Town Square" which serves not only as the social hub for the residents but doubles as an open area for a variety of entertainment programs.

All of New Jersey's State Veteran Homes can accommodate a full spectrum of residents nursing needs. Additionally, each Veteran Home can boast of a full range of amenities including chapels, libraries, barbershops, beauty salons, clinical offices, private examination rooms, complete physical therapy services, a snack shops and much more. The new Vineland facility also contains a wing dedicated to independent living – the first for a state Veteran Home.



The chapel in the new wing at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

All the Homes have a host of volunteer programs. These programs, a majority of which are run by Veteran Organizations, significantly enhance the quality of life for our Veterans through donations of both time and funds.

We invite veterans and their families to contact one of our Homes to schedule a tour. You will be impressed with both the facilities and the professional caring staff.

Veterans Treated To Barbecue, Airshow At Range



Vineland Veterans Memorial Home residents visited the Warren Grove Training Range Sept. 21 for a barbecue and airshow

hosted by 177th Fighter Wing and 108th Air Refueling Wing Airmen. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.

NEW VA COMPENSATION RATE TABLES

10% - 20% (No Dependents)

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$115
20%	\$225

30% - 60% Without Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran Alone	\$348	\$501	\$712	\$901
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$389	\$556	\$781	\$984
Veteran with Spouse & One Parent	\$422	\$600	\$837	\$1051
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$455	\$644	\$893	\$1118
Veteran with One Parent	\$381	\$545	\$768	\$968
Veteran with Two Parents	\$414	\$589	\$824	\$1035

70% - 100% Without Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	\$1,135	\$1,319	\$1,483	\$2,471
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$1,232	\$1,430	\$1,608	\$2,610
Veteran with Spouse & One Parent	\$1,310	\$1,519	\$1,708	\$2,722
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$1,388	\$1,608	\$1,808	\$2,834
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,213	\$1,408	\$1,583	\$2,583
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,291	\$1,497	\$1,683	\$2,695

30% - 60% With Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with Spouse & Child	\$420	\$597	\$832	\$1045
Veteran with Child Only	\$376	\$538	\$759	\$957
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$453	\$641	\$888	\$1112
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$486	\$685	\$944	\$1,179
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$409	\$582	\$815	\$1024
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$442	\$626	\$871	\$1091

70% - 100% With Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with Spouse & Child	\$1,303	\$1,511	\$1,699	\$2,711
Veteran with Child Only	\$1,200	\$1,394	\$1,567	\$2,565
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$1,381	\$1,600	\$1,799	\$2,823
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$1,459	\$1,689	\$1,899	\$2,935
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,278	\$1,483	\$1,667	\$2,677
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$1,356	\$1,572	\$1,767	\$2,789

Rates are effective as of Dec. 1, 2006. To view all rate tables visit the VA website at www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates/#BM01

How to read a Rate Table

Choose a row from the left side column and a column from the top row. Where those two choices intersect is the rate payable based on the conditions shown in the table. Some tables have few conditions, some have more. Sometimes there are add-in rates, such as Aid & Attendance (A&A) allowances. Occasionally calculations must be made to determine the rate.



Commission takes to the air

Members of the WW II Memorial Commission along with leaders of various veterans groups board a 108th Air Refueling Wing KC-135E Stratotanker on Nov. 30. Photo by Senior Airman Robert Finley, 108ARW/PA.



Elks present check

The Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks of the USA, Lodge 105, presented a \$1,000 check to the WW II Memorial Construction Fund. Accepting the check from (l-r): Lou Eggert E.R.; Col. Ronald Cefalone, Americanism Chairman and Harry Houghton, P.D.D.G.E.R.; are retired Col. Stephen Abel, DCVA; and committee member retired Brig. Gen. Robert Dutko. Photo by Jack Stoffa, NJDMAVA/DCVA.

Chosin vet finally files claim

Story and photo by Kevin Casey, Department of Veterans Affairs, New York Regional Office of Public Affairs



For 56 years, Korean War Veteran Russell Reed, 74, has suffered the effects of frostbite damage to his hands and feet from the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. He has spent a lifetime trying to keep his fingers limber by making leather belts, bags and wallets for family and friends.

The temperature dropped to 40 degrees below zero in the rugged mountains of Korea in November 1950. Marine Sgt. Russell Reed, 18, manned his Browning .30-caliber light machine gun with fingers black from frostbite. His weapon froze up as 70,000 Chinese flooded across the Yalu River and surrounded the United Nations force of 30,000. Luckily, some of the Chinese carried whale oil to keep their guns working in the sub-zero temperatures. He soon had some of that.

“We walked 72 hours coming out of Chosin,” Reed remembers. “We stumbled, really. And you’re sweating and your feet are freezing right to your boots while you are walking.” After the battle, it took three Marines to remove Reed’s boots, and when the boots came off, the bottoms of his feet came off with them.

Reed and the rest of Charlie Company, 7th Marines, are some of “the Frozen Chosin,” or “the Chosin Few” as survivors of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir are sometimes called. Their cold and bloody slog out of the reservoir began 56 years ago on November 26, 1950. For 56 years, Reed has suffered from the damage frostbite did to his hands and feet, yet he never filed for a nickel of the monthly disability-compensation payments the Department of Veterans Affairs would like to pay him.

“I often run into older veterans who, for whatever reason, never filed a claim and think that it’s too late,” says Joseph Bucco Jr. is a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) with the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMAVA) and a former Army lieutenant colonel.

That’s what happened when Bucco ran into Reed in late October. “I asked him if he had gotten frostbite and he said yes. I asked if he ever filed a claim and he said no. He said he didn’t want to.” Bucco suggested that Reed stop by the Newton VSO office ran by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Reed did stop at the Newton VSO, but he only inquired about a VA grave marker for his recently deceased son, a former Marine who died in September of a heart condition. The worker there encouraged Reed to file a disability claim for himself, but Reed left without doing so.

New Jersey has the highest percentage of World War II and Korean War veterans in the nation. Almost 30 percent of all veterans living in the state served during these war periods. But this generation’s reluctance to accept hand-outs contributes to New Jersey having the lowest VA disability claim rates in the nation.

“If you were wounded or injured in service during World War II, Korea or Vietnam, and you never filed a claim for benefits, you may have missed out on thousands of dollars of monthly benefits already,” says John McCourt, director of the VA Regional Office in Newark and a Vietnam combat veteran. “The bad news is that we can’t pay you any benefits for those past years. The good news is you can still file and begin receiving your benefits as soon as we decide your claim.”

McCourt urges veterans who did file years ago and who now receive monthly disability payments to consider filing for an increase in payments. There are 50,000 vets already on the rolls in New Jersey receiving from \$112 to \$6,845 each month.

“We are encouraging all veterans, but particularly those combat-injured, to review their current disability-compensation rates and apply for an increase if their conditions have worsened.”

Seeing their elders pass up these VA benefits should teach injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan to file claims as early as they can. Approved claims for service-connected disabilities also provide access to the VA health-care system; a benefit America’s newest veterans should not pass up.

Like many veterans of his generation, Reed was at first reluctant to talk about his war experience. His silence and half-century refusal to file a disability claim seem to have the same roots. And about the disability payments, “To be honest with you, I didn’t know whether I deserved it or not.”

Congress thinks he deserves it. The VA thinks he deserves it. And the folks at the New Jersey State Department of Military and Veterans Affairs think so, too.

So Reed filed his claim on Nov. 13. After 56 years. Reluctantly.

VETERANS HONORED

Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA

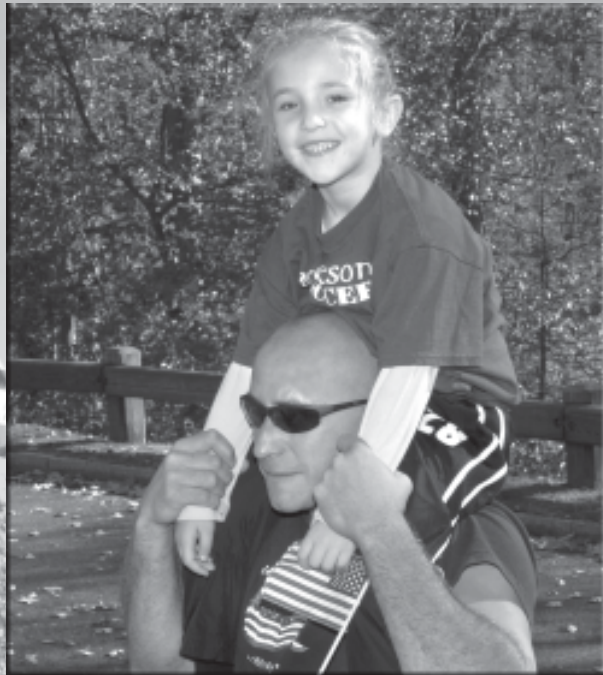
On Saturday, Nov. 11, members of the New Jersey Army and Air National Guard, along with representatives from various veterans organizations joined forces with members of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and Governor Jon S. Corzine to honor the men and women who have served America.

The ceremony was held at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery Chapel to honor all New Jersey veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The ceremony also included a flag retirement service, wherein the ashes of 2,000 flags were entombed.

Veterans Day, which was originally called Armistice Day, commemorated the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918 at 11 a.m. Since then the holiday has been observed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. In 1954, the name of the holiday was changed to Veterans Day to honor those who had served in World War II and the Korean War. Today, the holiday honors all veterans.

The Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery is New Jersey's sole state-operated veterans' cemetery. Dedicated in 1986, it is funded jointly by state and federal dollars and is under the management of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.





Volunteer drivers needed

The New Jersey Disabled American Veterans (NJ DAV) Transportation Network is looking for a few good drivers.

For many veterans on fixed incomes, transportation costs to VA hospitals are too high. That forces some into deciding between treatment, food or other necessities.

The NJ DAV is looking for drivers so our veterans will never be forced to make that choice. Drivers are coordinated through NJ DAV Hospital Service Coordinators (HSCs) at VA medical centers. The NJ DAV is committed to this program and has purchased four vans specifically for transporting veterans.

Volunteers interested in becoming drivers must pass a physical examination and health screening administered at a VA Medical Center. Once determined physically fit to safely transport passengers, volunteers must show proof of a safe driving record, a valid driver's license, and current motor vehicle bodily-injury liability and property damage and be willing to attend training.

Those interested should contact the NJ DAV Transportation Network at (609) 396-2885.



Scholarship awarded

Casey Duffy wipes away tears as she thanks the New Jersey League of Community Bankers during the presentation of the first scholarship from the League's Education Foundation. Duffy is the wife of New Jersey Army National Guard Soldier, Spc. Christopher Duffy, who was killed in action fighting in Iraq in June 2004. The League is still awarding scholarships to family members of New Jersey residents killed serving in the Global War on Terrorism. For more information go to the New Jersey League of Community Bankers Web site www.njleague.com/scholarship.htm. Photo by Kryn P. Westhoven, NJDMAVA/PA.



Bluebirds find home at cemetery

Cadets from the New Jersey ChalleNGe Youth Academy hang bluebird nesting boxes and various types of feeders at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Nov. 9. This is part of an effort by the cemetery toward getting designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. Currently there are only four cemeteries in the United States with this designation.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Combat Veterans Information: www.va.gov/Environagents/page.cfm?pg=16

Transition Assistance Program: www.va.gov/opa/fact/transsst.asp

PTSD and Combat Veterans: www.ncptsd.org/topics/war.html

Survivors Benefits: www.vba.va.gov/survivors/index.htm

Women Veterans Information: www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Topics/Women/



Governor checks out Guide

Governor Jon S. Corzine (left) and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right) review the N.J. Veterans Guide prior to attending the annual Military Review at the National Guard Training Center at Sea Girt Oct. 14. Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA.



Iraqi Freedom vet receives medal

Retired Col. Stephen G. Abel presents Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran Sgt. 1st Class Joel Allen with a Meritorious Service Medal after the DSM/MSM ceremony that was held at the Edison Elks Lodge, Edison, on Oct. 19. Allen, a member of the 411th Chemical Company, U. S. Army Reserves, received the MSM after 23 years of service with the USAR. Allen is also the recipient of a Purple Heart and the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal with cluster. Photo by Staff Sgt. Barbara Harbison, NJDMAVA/PA.



Outreach visits Paramus Park Mall

A member of the media interviews a veteran during the Veterans Outreach Program at the Paramus Park Mall on Dec. 6 to 8. This all part of the 'One Mall a Month' traveling kiosk program whereby the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs brings benefit information to 'those who served' as part of the Veterans Outreach Program. The outreach is designed to inform as veterans and their families of all the benefits that they may be eligible to receive from the state and federal governments. Veterans who miss the opportunity to visit the mall kiosk can call the department's toll free benefits information line any time at 1-888-8NJ VETS.

VETERANS OUTREACH KIOSK SCHEDULE

January 11 – 13:

Brunswick Square Mall

February 8, 9*, 10:

Moorestown Mall

February 28, March 1 and 2:

Hamilton Mall

March 14, 15, 16*:

Paramus Park Shopping Center

April 4 – 6:

Cherry Hill Mall

May 16, 17*, 18:

Ocean County Mall

Hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

* Indicates medal ceremonies, which begin at 10:30 a.m.

VETERANS NEWS & VIEWS



Monmouth County donates \$25,000 toward Memorial

Monmouth County Freeholder Theodore J. Narozanick (center) presents a check for \$25,000 to E. Larry St. Laurent (second from right), a member of the WWII Memorial Commission, to help build the planned WWII Memorial in Trenton. Also pictured are (from left) Manuel Almeida, past state commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars retired Col. Stephen G. Abel, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs, and James Manning (far right), of VFW Post 2639, Neptune. Photo courtesy Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders.



VFW Aide-de Camp

Retired Col. Stephen Abel (second from right) was presented with a National Aide-de Camp cap at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) convention in Atlantic City on Dec. 9. Also pictured are (left to right) Bob Wallace, Executive Director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; Frank Moore, N.J. VFW State Commander; Abel and George Lisicki, Senior Vice Commander in Chief of the VFW. Photo courtesy VFW.



POW/MIA Medal design approved

The design for the New Jersey Prisoner Of War and Missing In Action Medal has been approved. The design was executed by Hannah Ueno-Olsen, an Associate Professor in Graphic Design at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and the spouse of an Airman from the 177th Fighter Wing.



Memorial Receives \$25,000 boost

The New Jersey WWII Memorial received a check for \$25,000 during the Veterans Dinner Dance held at Cherry Hill Armory on Nov. 4; (l-r) retired Col. Stephen Abel, Philadelphia Eagles player Jon Runyan, Eric Spevak, Vets Gala organizer, comedian Joe Piscapo. Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, 444MPAD.

Hire a vet, you'll be glad you did.

"SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED"

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS SERVICE OFFICES

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John Valenta, VSO
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Bernadette Whitman,
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William McDonnell, VSO
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Fax: 856-384-3781

Essex/Union
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Carolanne Guzzi, Sec.
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Elizabeth 07201-1053
908-820-3133/3134
Fax: 908-965-2954

Hudson
Edna Jones, VSO
Helen Banks, Sec.
438 Summit Avenue,
3rd Fl, Rm. 302
Jersey City 07306-3158
201-798-7040/7051/7026
Fax: 201-798-7036

Mercer
David Martin, VSO
Theresa Tomecheck,
Sec.
28 W. State Street, 5th
fl.
PO 671, Room 514
Trenton 08625-0671
609-292-5880/5881
Fax: 609-633-6852

Middlesex/Somerset
Joseph Battito, VSO
Lillian Pacheco, Sec.
711 Jersey Avenue
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732-937-6347/6348/6349
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Monmouth
Donald McNamara, VSO
Carolyn Brown, Sec.
630 Bangs Avenue
Suite 320
Asbury Park 07712-6904
732-775-7009/7005
Fax: 732-775-3612

Fort Monmouth Clinic
8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(Thursday)
732-532-4465

Ocean
Joseph Salzano, VSO
Phyllis Goffin, Sec.
James J. Howard
Outpatient Clinic
970 RT 70
Brick 08724-3550
732-840-3033/3034
Fax: 732-840-0399

Passaic
Leonard E. Johnson,
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Titus Osuagwu, Sec.
100 Hamilton Plaza
6th fl.
Paterson 07505-2101
973-977-4050/4051/4556
Fax: 973-977-4464

Salem/Cumberland
William Burrows, VSO
Robert Del Percio, VSO
Catherine Raniolo, Sec.
524 Northwest Blvd.
Vineland 08360-2895
856-696-6452/6445/6451
Fax: 856-696-6499

Sussex/Morris
Bruce Stanley, VSO
5 South Park Drive
Newton 07860-5000
973-383-4949/1363
Fax: 973-383-1272

Dover
(Wednesday)
973-366-8347

Warren/Hunterdon
Monica Banca, VSO
Lisa Szymanski, Sec.
550 A Route 57
Port Murray 07865-9482
908-689-5840/5845
Fax: 908-689-5879

VA Liaison Offices

Newark
20 Washington Place
Newark, 07102-3174
973-297-3230
Fax: 973-648-2356

Philadelphia
5000 Wissahickon Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-381-3054
Fax: 215-381-3459

For information on your veterans' entitlements call toll-free
1-888-8NJ-VETS, or go online to:

www.state.nj.us/military/veterans/index.html

VA OUTREACH FOR BENEFIT

From the Department of Veterans Affairs

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is reaching out to inform wartime veterans and surviving spouses of deceased wartime veterans about an under-used, special monthly pension benefit called Aid and Attendance.

Although this is not a new program, not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility. The Aid and Attendance pension benefit may be available to wartime veterans and surviving spouses who have in-home care or who live in nursing-homes or assisted-living facilities.

Many elderly veterans and surviving spouses whose incomes are above the congressionally mandated legal limit for a VA pension may still be eligible for the special monthly Aid and Attendance benefit if they have large medical expenses, including nursing home expenses, for which they do not receive reimbursement.

The basic criteria for the Aid and Attendance benefit include the inability to feed oneself, to dress and undress without assistance, or to take care of one's own bodily needs. People who are bedridden or need help to adjust special prosthetic or orthopedic devices may also be eligible, as well as those who have a physical or mental injury or illness that requires regular assistance to protect them from hazards or dangers in their daily environment.

For a wartime veteran or surviving spouse to qualify, the veteran must have served at least 90 days of active military service, one day of which was during a period of war, and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Wartime veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, (Oct. 16, 1981, for officers) must have completed at least 24 continuous months of military service or the period for which they were ordered to active duty.

If all requirements are met, VA determines eligibility for the Aid and Attendance benefit by adjusting for un-reimbursed medical expenses from the veteran's or surviving spouse's total household income. If the remaining income amount falls below the annual income threshold for the Aid and Attendance benefit, VA pays the difference.

The Aid and Attendance income threshold for a veteran without dependents is now \$18,234 annually. The threshold increases to \$21,615 if a veteran has one dependent, and by \$1,866 for each additional dependent. The annual Aid and Attendance threshold for a surviving spouse alone is \$11,715. This threshold increases to \$13,976 if there is one dependent child, and by \$1,866 for each additional child.

Additional information and assistance in applying for the Aid and Attendance benefit may be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000. Applications may be submitted on-line at www.va.benefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp. Information is also available on the Internet at www.va.gov or from any local veterans service organization.

Vet receives medal at Gala



Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth (right), The Adjutant General of New Jersey awards the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal to Chief Warrant Officer Mickey McGuire (left), an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran at the annual "Salute to Patriotism" gala at the Vietnam Era Educational Center and the nearby Robert B. Meyner Reception Center in Holmdel on Nov. 30. The gala helped raise between \$40,000 and \$50,000 to help toward funding educational programming at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and the Vietnam Era Educational Center. Photo by Roman Martyniuk.

400 attend candlelighting ceremony

Approximately 400 people attended Holiday Lighting ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Holmdel on Dec. 9.

The event was designed to not only remember the holidays soon to come, but to remember the men and women who cannot be with us today to celebrate the holidays, because they were killed or became missing in action.

The ceremony began with a welcome address by John LeGates, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, New Jersey State Council. After various presentations on the holidays, a group of children touched the Christmas tree to help it "magically" light up. This was followed up by a procession into the heart of the Memorial for the presentation of wreaths was led by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 800 Color Guard.

THE NEW JERSEY WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



New Jersey World War II Memorial at Veterans Park (Trenton)

Today fewer and fewer Americans have a personal connection or awareness of the sacrifices and courage of New Jersey's World War II Veterans and Generation. Time is quickly passing. We urge you to support the New Jersey World War II Memorial through a tax-deductible contribution.

Individual Donors:
Eagle: \$1,000 and up
Falcon: \$500 - \$999
Hawk: \$100 - \$499
Osprey: \$25 - \$99
Other: \$ _____

Name

Phone

Address/City/State/Zip

Memorial donations are payable to: Treasurer, State of New Jersey*

***Indicate on check: NJ WWII Memorial**

**Mail to: WWII Memorial Commission
c/o Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs-DVS
PO Box 340, Trenton, NJ 08625-0340
Contact: 609-530-7049**



NEW WING DEDICATED



On Nov. 9, a new wing at the Vineland Veterans Memorial Home was dedicated.

U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo was the guest speaker, and proclamations were read by state Senator Nicholas Asselta, and state Assemblymen Jeffrey Van Drew and Nelson Albano. Special remarks were made by Vineland Mayor Perry Barse, Joseph Romano,

Chief Executive Officer of the Home; retired Col. Stephen Abel, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans Affairs and Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth, The Adjutant General of New Jersey.

The 1st Battalion 150th Aviation (Air Assault), New Jersey Army National Guard, provided a fly-over with UH-60A Blackhawk helicopters.

The new wing can house 300 residents and replaces three older structures. It features semi-private rooms with their own bath rooms, internet connectivity, and a bi-level courtyard. The new Home can accommodate a wide range of residents needs and also contains a wing dedicated to independent living – the first for a state Veteran Home. The new home also boasts a chapel with stained glass, a library and a full range of amenities including a barbershop, a beauty salon, a dental clinic, vision and auditory offices, private doctor offices, a complete physical therapy room and a snack shop.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9112 raise the colors at the beginning of the ceremony.



The ribbon cutting ceremony (left-right): state Assemblyman Nelson Albano, Mayor Perry Barse, State Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew, Senator Nicholas Asselta, U.S. Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo, Chief Executive Officer Joseph Romano, Maj. Gen. Glenn K. Rieth and Col. (Ret) Stephen G. Abel prepare to cut the ribbon inaugurating the new wing.

By Brig. Gen. Frank R. Carlini, Director, NJDMAVA/VHCS
Photos by Tech. Sgt. Mark Olsen, NJDMAVA/PA